

Application Serial No. 10/759,570

REMARKS

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims of the instant application are in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 5, 18, 19, 23, 28-30, and 35-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication Number 2002/0145669 ("Umeda"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 5 because Umeda, at a minimum, fails to describe or suggest a solid state imaging apparatus, wherein in both of the first and second signal transmission methods, each of the selection signals of the shift register is output via the operation switching circuit to a corresponding pixel included in the same pixel group arranged in the same direction as the shift register, such that all pixels in the pixel group receive a selection signal from the shift register in the first signal transmission method and all pixels in the pixel group receive a selection signal from the shift register in the second signal transmission method, as recited in claim 5.

Umeda, in the relied upon portions, shows a configuration capable of switching between an all pixels read mode of FIG. 22A in which all of the pixels are sequentially read out and a sub-sampling read mode of FIG. 22C in which only pixel data of a specific color is read out and pixel data of other colors are not read out. Based on the above, in Umeda, in one of two signal transmission methods, sub-sampling of pixel data is performed.

In contrast, in the instant application, although the order of pixels to be read can be changed between the first and second signal transmission methods, all pixels in the same group

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are read out in both of the first and second signal transmission methods. That is, according to the instant application, the sub-sampling of pixel data *is not* performed in the first or the second signal transmission methods. Whereas, Umeda includes a sub-sampling read mode in which pixel data is sub-sampled for reading. *See*, Umeda at FIG. 22C.

Accordingly, Umeda fails to describe or suggest a solid state imaging apparatus, wherein in both of the first and second signal transmission methods, each of the selection signals of the shift register is output via the operation switching circuit to a corresponding pixel included in the same pixel group arranged in the same direction as the shift register, such that all pixels in the pixel group receive a selection signal from the shift register in the first signal transmission method and all pixels in the pixel group receive a selection signal from the shift register in the second signal transmission method, as recited in claim 5.

In response to Applicants' previous arguments, the Office Action asserts that previously pending claim 5 does not "require that the selection signals are sent to the same pixel group in the first and second signal transmission methods, or that the selection signals are sent to all pixels in a vertical or horizontal direction in the second signal transmission method." *See*, Office Action at page 3. Although Applicants disagree with the Office Action, to expedite prosecution Applicants have amended claim 5 to recite in both of the first and second signal transmission methods, each of the selection signals of the shift register is output via the operation switching circuit to a corresponding pixel included in the same pixel group and all pixels in the pixel group receive a selection signal from the shift register in the second signal transmission method.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 5, along with its dependent claims.

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Claim 35, as amended, recites a solid state imaging apparatus that includes, among other features, an operation switching circuit for switching between two signal transmission methods when outputting the selection signals from the shift register to the single line pixel group, wherein in both of the first and second signal transmission methods, each of the selection signals of the shift register is output via the operation switching circuit to a corresponding pixel included in the same single line pixel group, such that all pixels in the single line pixel group receive a selection signal from the shift register in the first signal transmission method and all pixels in the single line pixel group receive a selection signal from the shift register in the second signal transmission method. Therefore, for at least the reasons presented above with respect to claim 5, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 35, along with its dependent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Umeda in view of U.S. Patent Number 5,016,108 ("Akimoto"). Claim 21 depends from claim 5. Therefore, claim 21 is believed to be allowable for at least the reasons presented above with respect to claim 5.

Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are patentable over the cited prior art. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejections under §§ 102, 103 be withdrawn.

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Conclusion

Having fully responded to all matters raised in the Office Action, Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, an indication for which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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